



Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a tape recording device, comprising:
  - a supply reel and a take-up reel, a head for recording data to the tape or reading data from the tape or both, a servo system capable of moving the tape between the supply reel and the take-up reel past said head;
  - a recording system, comprising:
    - an actuator capable of moving said head across the recording surface of said tape;
    - a flexure having a first end attached to the head and a second end attached to the actuator;
    - whereas the flexure allows the head to move towards the tape;
    - and
    - whereas the flexure is biased against the tape and therefore urges the head towards the tape; and
    - whereas the flexure allows the head to move so that the head surface is substantially aligned with the tape surface.
2. (Currently Amended) A ~~recording system~~ tape recording device of claim 1 further additionally comprising a spring;
  - whereas the spring ~~provides~~ enhances a the bias ~~and thus pushes the head towards the tape~~ of the flexure.
3. (Original) A recording system of claim 1 further comprising a means to stabilize the tape at the recording area.
4. (Currently Amended) A recording system of claim 3, whereas the means to stabilize the tape stabilizer is a hydrodynamic bearing.
5. (Currently Amended) A recording system of claim 3, whereas the means to stabilize the tape stabilizer is a dual bump hydrodynamic bearing and the stabilized area is between the two bumps.
6. (Currently Amended) A recording system of claim 3, whereas the means to stabilize the tape stabilizer is a hydrostatic bearing.

7. (Currently Amended) A recording system of claim 3, whereas the means to stabilize the tape stabilizer is a roller bearing.
8. (Withdrawn) A recording system of claim 3 further comprising:
  - a second flexure having a first end attached to the actuator and
  - a second end attached to a guiding block.
9. (Withdrawn) A means to stabilize the tape according to claim 8 whereas the guiding block is a second recording head.
10. (Withdrawn) A recording system according to claim 3 further comprising a means to separate the recording head from the stabilizer to allow the head to move in and out of the tape thread path.
11. (Withdrawn) A mechanism to separate the head from the stabilizer according to claim 10 comprising:
  - a solenoid having a plurality of positions,
  - a plurality of rods movably attached to the solenoid;
  - whereas the rods separate the head from the tape when the solenoid is in a first position; and
  - whereas the rods allow the head to contact the tape when the solenoid is in a second position.
12. (Currently Amended) In a tape recording device, comprising:
  - a supply reel and a take-up reel, a head assembly for recording data to the tape or reading data from the tape or both, a servo system capable of moving the tape from the supply reel to the take-up reel past said head;
  - whereas the length of the head assembly surface that is in contact with the tape surface is substantially less than the width of the tape.
13. (Currently Amended) A tape recording device drive according to claim 12 whereas the length of the head assembly surface that is in contact with the tape surface is less than 50% of the width of the tape.

14. (Currently Amended) A tape recording device drive according to claim 12 whereas the length of the head assembly surface that is in contact with the tape surface substantially matches the width of a track group

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Groel", written in a cursive style.

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